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INNOVATIONS IN THE DONBASS, TRIBULL, AND OTHER COAL-MINING AREAS

NEW MINES PUT INTO OPERATION -- Zarya Vostoka, No 150, 29 Jul 48

A large reconstruction program is being carried out in the "Stalinnugol" Combine to restore the mines. A large mine, No 21, of the "Snezhnyanatratsit" Trust has been put into operation. The "Vladimir" Mine of the "Kuybyshevugol" Trust has been put into operation after a large amount of technical reconstruction work. A new building has been constructed for the lifting and sorting apparatus. Reconstruction of the Mine imeni Ordzhonikidze of the "Krasno-gvardeyskugol" Trust is going at full speed. Work on Mines No 20 of the "Zayevanatratsit" Trust and the "Gruzskaya-Maklonnaya" Trust of "Makoyevugol" has been completed. All these will be put into operation by Miner's Day, 29 August.

DONBASS MINE NOW MECHANIZED -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 179, 30 Jul 48

Coal Mine No 19-20 in the Donbass has been completely mechanized. Its workers have pledged to turn out 10,000 tons more coal than called for under the plan and to produce 6,500 tons of this total by Miner's Day.

ROSTOVUGOL COMBINE COMPLETES PLAN -- Sovetskaya Litva, No 180, 31 Jul 48

The "Rostovugol" Combine has fulfilled its 7-month plan. The prewar coal-output level was surpassed by 52 percent. Production costs were reduced by 8 million rubles. At present, each ton of coal obtained by Rostov Oblast miners is considerably cheaper than the planned cost.

"STALINNUGOL" COMPLETES PLAN -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 176, 27 Jul 48

The "Stalinnugol" Trust completed its 7-month plan on 25 July. Coal production has risen 42 percent as compared with the same period in 1947.

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UKRAINE COAL MINING INCREASES -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 177, 28 Jul 48

The miners of the "Stalinskogol" Combine have fulfilled the 7-month plan for coal output ahead of schedule, producing 26.3 percent more coal than during the same period of 1947.

CORE DRILLING CUTS TKIBULI COSTS -- Zarya Vostoka, No 149, 27 Jul 48

Core drilling is proving successful in the Tkibuli coal region, where drillers completed their 6-month plan by 15 May. Average cutting per drill was $1\frac{1}{2}$ times more than assigned by the plan. Reduced drilling costs permitted a 100,000-ruble saving.

MODEL TKIBULI COAL MINE OPENED -- Zarya Vostoka, No 151, 30 Jul 48

The new Tkibuli coal mine, the "Yugo-Vostochnaya," began operating at the beginning of July. The mountainous character of the locality necessitates two types of mining: horizontal cuts on the ground level and vertical shafts.

All the steps in mining, loading, and hauling the coal are mechanized. The coal is cut out with pneumatic drills, carried through the intermediary drifts on conveyors, and hauled out by battery-operated electric engines. Standard 2-ton cars are used in the mine. The miners will be transported on special passenger cars from the tunnel opening to the working drifts.

Two uniform TBAGI ventilators have been installed in the mine. These have a capacity of 2 - 6 thousand cubic meters of air a minute and can operate separately and interchangeably, assuring constant and uninterrupted airing of the mine and increasing the amount of fresh air in each sector.

The installations on the surface of the "Yugo-Vostochnaya" Mine and the whole technological complex deserve special attention. The coal is sorted and dressed in plants located near the mines and then sent to the bunkers and railroad cars.

In spite of the extent of the work required for the mine construction and the surface installations, the mine was built by the workers of the "Tkibulshakhtostroy" (Tkibuli Mine Construction) Trust (director, Sh. Tsirekidze) in record time. The Acceptance Commission (chief, P. Manukyan) organized by order of the Ministry of Fuel Enterprises Construction and the Ministry of the Coal Industry of the Western Regions USSR found that all the work done at the mine was good.

It is hoped that the workers, under the direction of N. Karkashadze, will quickly learn to utilize the full productive capacity of the new mine. This will be a valuable contribution in the supplying of the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant with coking coal.

TKVARCHELI MINES INCREASE OPERATIONS -- Zarya Vostoka, No 152, 31 Jul 48

The Tkvarcheli coal deposits in Georgia were discovered 22 years ago and put into operation in 1935. All the coal mass is being utilized to its full extent, including lower-grade coal shale which is used as fuel for the large Thermal Power Plant imeni L. P. Beria. The new center of coal industry, the town of Tkvarcheli, has been included in the USSR network of highways and railroads. In the near future, electric trains will come up to the main tunnel entrances. Tkvarcheli coal mines will supply the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant with the necessary coking coal.

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AKHALTSIKHE REGION BEING DEVELOPED -- Zarya Vostoka, No 151, 30 Jul 48

In the mines now operating and under construction in the new coal region around Akhaltsikhe, work has been intensified in anticipation of Miner's Day. Mine No 1 is already being exploited. Mine No 3 is in the process of construction.

Zasyad'ko, Minister of the Coal Industry of the Western Regions USSR, recently spent some time in Akhaltsikhe. He called on Donbass miners to aid Georgian miners in improving the exploitation of their new mines. Thirty-two miners have already arrived from the Donbass. In the drifts of the new No 1 mine they are giving the young Akhaltsikhe miners the benefit of their experience.

TADZHIK MINE GETS NEW EQUIPMENT -- Kommunist Tadzhikistana, No 151, 30 Jul 48

New equipment is being introduced in the coal industry of Tadzhikistan. At Mine No 1/5 near Isfara two additional cutting machines have been put to use. Clearing the mine of rock, which formerly required much time and labor, is now carried on by special machinery, rock loaders. Six of these have been set up at critical points in the mine, and three more will be installed by Miner's Day. Work has begun on equipping a power-generating train, which will operate the drilling and ventilating machinery.

KIRGIZ MINES MUST INCREASE OUTPUT -- Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, No 150, 30 Jul 48

Engineer B. Osherovich, deputy chief, section for control of plan fulfillment under the USSR Gosplan Representative for the Kirgiz SSR, points out several of the serious defects which are slowing up coal mining in the leading mines of Kirgiziya, the Kok-Yangak, Sulyukta, and Kyzyl-Kiya mines.

The application of mean progressive technical and economic norms in the use of machinery, mechanisms, and aggregates, and the expenditure of electric power, fuel, materials, and raw materials is playing an important part in the effort to complete the plan. Formerly the norms were established on the basis of the average indexes of each enterprise. These arithmetical means frequently reflected the low indexes of the lagging sectors of production. Mean progressive norms differ in that they orient the workers, engineers, and technicians toward acquiring and assimilating the most advanced methods.

The Soviet of Ministers USSR has confirmed for 1948 the mean progressive technical and economic norms for the various branches of the national economy. Ministries and departments are obliged to work out differentiated norms for each separate enterprise, but many have failed to do this properly. In accordance with the order of the Ministry of the Coal Industry of the Eastern Regions USSR, the "Sredazugol" (Central Asia Coal) Combine confirmed the norms for the mines of the Kirgiz SSR. However, after approving these norms, the Combine failed to follow up the matter seriously.

The "Kirgizugol" Trust and Mining Administration are also greatly at fault. Many enterprises were given norms which were obviously lower than they should have been. The norm for drift cutting was set at 30.5 meters a month for the Kyzyl-Kiya mine, although it had already been surpassed in the second quarter 1947 and exceeded by 8.5 meters in the third quarter 1948.

The situation at the Sulyukta mine is quite different. There the mean progressive norm is not being fulfilled. Instead of the 18.2 meters stipulated, only 13.5 meters were reached in January, 13.6 meters in February, 17.2 meters in March, and 15.1 meters in April. The mine officials did not see to the proper preparation of the drift and there were many accidents.

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Kok-Yangak miners cut an average of 19.8 meters in January and 17.5 meters in February and March, thereby exceeding the plan. But preliminary work was neglected, with the result that the operational face, which should have enlarged by 925 meters by 1 April, dropped to 593 meters in March. Only 15 meters were cut during April and May.

Available machinery is not effectively employed. At the Kyzyl-Kiya mine, three cutting machines are in use, yet the amount of coal mined mechanically is extraordinarily small. A total of only 900 tons of coal were cut in May, although the mean progressive norm for the productivity of one cutting machine is 2,200 tons a month.

Machinery is also poorly utilized at the Kok-Yangak mine, where coal could be mined with automatic cutters in a number of sectors in Pit No 39-bis and in the "Kapital'naya" drift. However, the mine directors are slow to install mechanization because of the steep gradient and peculiar geological structure of the majority of the seams. Miners in the "Kapital'naya" drift, which produces 40 percent of all the coal mined at Kok-Yangak, are fulfilling an average of only 87 percent of the plan.

The situation at the Sulyukta mine is somewhat better. The average monthly productivity of the QTK-3 machines in Pit No 2/8 was, in the first quarter of 1948, 3,091 tons against the 3,000 tons called for by the plan, and in Pits No 4 and No 9 it reached 4,030 tons. However, the over-all effectiveness of the mine's mechanization is lowered because only four of the six cutting machines are in operation.

Other types of equipment are also being poorly utilized in the mines. In the Kok-Yangak mine, coal hauling is only 61 percent mechanized instead of the 91 percent stipulated by the plan. Coal haulage by electric locomotives over the main underground-level passages amounts to 70 percent of the plan. The average monthly productivity of heavy electric locomotives is only 82 percent of plan, and of the "Liliput" locomotive, 66 percent.

In general, machinery is not highly regarded in the mines. At the Kyzyl-Kiya and Kok-Yangak mines, two rock-loading machines have been standing idle for a long time. At the Sulyukta mine, a Markarov combine is lying under a cave-in; five conveyors and two scraper conveyors are not being used.

Almost all mines lack machinery-repair schedules. Most machinery is not repaired until it is completely useless for service.

KOK-YANGAK MINERS EXCEED PLAN -- Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, No 148, 27 Jul 48

Kok-Yangak miners surpassed their 6-month plan and are continuing to produce well in July. The number of brigades and individual miners who are exceeding their quotas is rising, and many miners and loaders have already completed their 7-month assignments. Miners in the "Kapital'naya" drift are now working on the August plan. If cutting production costs more than was planned, they have saved over 800,000 rubles in 6 months.

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